

Message Text

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64

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1165

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: NATO PROJECTS - ICELAND

REF: REYKJAVIK 1126, USNATO 4461

1. PROPOSED TOUR OF NINE ICELANDIC MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND JOURNALISTS TO NATO IS PARTICULARLY PERTINENT AT THIS TIME BUT IT MUST BE PROGRAMMED AND CONDUCTED EFFECTIVELY AND SENSITIVELY.

2. ICELANDIC/ICELANDIC DEFENSE FORCE RELATIONS ARE NEARING AN IMPORTANT JUNCTURE WITH A WIDE-RANGING DEBATE ON THE DEFENSE FORCE AND ON ATLANTIC SECURITY EXPECTED IN THE PARLIAMENT IN LATE OCTOBER. ONE-QUARTER OF THIS PARLIAMENT ARE NEW MEMBERS. THEY IN PARTICULAR ARE IN NEED OF ORIENTATION ON NATO AND ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KEFLAVIK BASE TO NATO. VETERAN MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND PRESS CORPS ARE ALSO IN NEED OF UP-DATING.

3. REQUIRED IN THE PROGRAMMING ON THIS TOUR IS INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT (SEE REYKJAVIK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFTEL) AND ON THE SPECIFIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ICELAND

DEFENSE FORCE (IDF).

4. IT IS VITAL FOR BRIEFERS TO KNOW THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLY GREATER SUPPORT IN ICELAND FOR CONTINUED NATO MEMBERSHIP THAN THERE IS FOR THE SPECIFIC CONTINUATION OF THE IDF. THE KEFLAVIK BASE IS ALWAYS RPT ALWAYS REFERRED TO HERE AS "THE NATO BASE." NOT ONE ON-BASE SIGN SPEAKS OF IT AS A U.S. BASE. ICELANDERS DO BY AND LARGE WISH TO FULFILL "OBLIGATIONS" THEY HAVE TO OVERALL NATO SECURITY. IT MUST BE A PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS TOUR TO STRESS THAT ICELANDIC MEMBERSHIP AND THE BASE AT KEFLAVIK REMAIN VITAL TO THE ALLIANCE, AND THAT COLLECTIVE NATO SECURITY IN TODAY'S EAST/WEST SITUATION CONTINUES TO DEPEND UPON ICELAND MAKING THIS CONTRIBUTION.

5. ONCE THE VISIT IS APPROVED AND THE GRANTEEES SELECTED ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED. THE MISSION ESCORT OFFICER WILL ALSO PROVIDE GUIDANCE.
IRVING

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